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McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Definition of Homelessness

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence. The term includes children and youth who:

- share the housing of other persons due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- are living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- are abandoned in hospitals;
- are awaiting foster care placement;
- have a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings;
- migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Contact Mary Maronek, mary.maronek@dpi.wi.us, (608) 261-6322, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, 125 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707 for more information about homelessness issues. Or visit the DPI Homeless program website at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/homeless/>.